

Message Text

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ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 INR-07

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FM USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTO 27042

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE TO TWA HIJACKING

REF: STATE 226287/1; TOSEC 270029

DEPARTMENT PASS TO EMBASSIES PARIS, BELGRADE, REYKJAVIK,
OTTAWA AND AMCONSUL MONTREAL

1. SECRETARY HAS REVIEWED THE GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR THE
TWA HIJACKING AND MADE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES, KEYED TO
QUESTIONS QUOTED:
2. Q. WHAT ABOUT THE REPORTED YUGOSLAV CHARGE THAT CERTAIN
REACTIONARY CIRCLES IN THE U.S. ARE PARTICIPATING IN A CAMPAIGN
AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA?
A. IF THAT REPORT IS ACCURATE, IT IS UTTER NONSENSE.
3. 1Q. HAVE THE INVESTIGATIONS TURNED UP ANY LEADS?
A. THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE.
4. Q. DID THIS VIOLATE US POLICY?
A. THE DROPS WERE NOT IN VIOLATION OF US AVIATION
REGULATIONS. THE US GOVERNMENT POLICY IS NOT TO DEAL WITH
TERRORISTS.
5. Q. DID THE US SANCTION THE PUBLICATION OF THE TERRORISTS'
PRO-CROATION MANIFESTO IN VARIOUS US NEWSPAPERS?
A. NEITHER THE TASK FORCE DEALING WITH THE INCIDENT NOR
THE STATE DEPARTMENT SANCTIONED PUBLICATION.

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6. Q. WHAT ABOUT AMBASSADOR RUSH'S MEETING WITH THE HI-

JACKERS? DIDN'T THAT VIOLATE THE USG'S "NO NEGOTIATION"
POLICY?

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN OUR ANTI-TERRORISM POLICIES.
AMERICAN AMBASSADORS ARE AUTHORIZED TO DETERMINE THE WELL-
BEING OF THE HOSTAGES AND REQUEST, ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS,
THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES INVOLVED.
AMERICAN AMBASSADORS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS
OF ANY KIND. AMBASSADOR RUSH WAS OPERATING IN FULL
RECOGNIZANCE OF OUR POLICE AND HE IN NO WAY VIOLAED THESE
STANDARD INSTRUCTIONS. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT WAS
THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WHICH SET THE CONDITIONS FOR THE SURRENDER
OF THE HIJACKERS, TOOK THEM INTO CUSTODY AFTER THEIR
SURRENDER, AND PROMPTLY RETURNED THEM TO US CUSTODY SO THAT
THEY MAY STAND TRIAL.

7. Q. WHO RAN THE USG'S REACTION TO THIS INCIDENT?

A. THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND TRANSPORTATION TOOK THE
LEAD IN COORDINATION OUR GOVERNMENTS'S RESPONSE TO THIS
INCIDENT DURING THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 11. AFTERWARDS

A TASK FORCE WAS FORMED CONSISTING OF THE DEPARTMENTS
OF TRANSPORTATION, STATE, JUSTICE, FBI AND INTELLIGENCE
COMMUNITY, AND THE WHITE HOUSE. END.

KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: SECTO 27042 PASSED EMBASSIES PARIS, BELGRADE, REYKJAVIK,
OTTAWA AND AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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